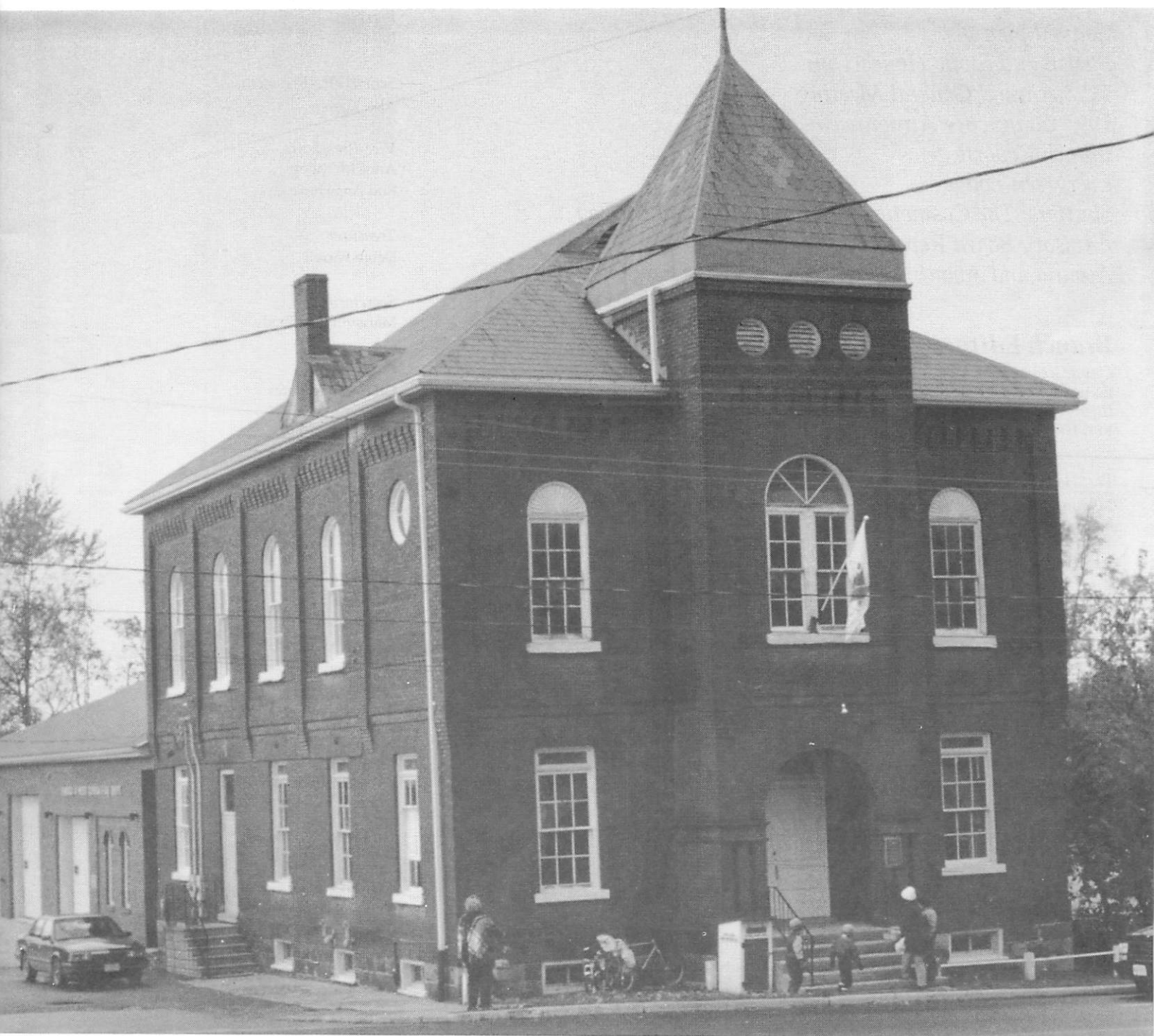


ACORN

XVII 4 

The Journal of The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario

Winter 1992



The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario Inc.

10 Adelaide Street East, Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

Telephone (416) 367-8075



A society incorporated in 1933 for the preservation of the best examples of the architecture of the province, and for the protection of its places of natural beauty.

Table of Contents

Council News

Stencil and Stone House Tour

1993 Annual General Meeting

1993 Conference Announcement

Branch Reports

Evergreen Lodge

Shutters: The Cosmetic Variety and the Real McCoy

Advisory Board Reports

Around and About

Branch Editors

Quinte Region

Rodger C. Greig
Cherry Valley, Ontario
K0K 1P0

Port Hope

Marion Garland
86 Augusta St.
Port Hope
L1A 1G9

Toronto Region

G. Onen
30 Inglewood Drive
Toronto, Ontario
M4T 1G8
(416) 923-5492

Brant County

Michael Keefe
165 Tollgate Road
Brantford, Ontario
N3R 5A2
(519) 759-0948

Heritage Oxford

Edwin Bennett
465 Vincent Street
Woodstock, Ontario
N5S 5M9
(519) 537-3325

London Region

Howard Pulver
75 Thorton Avenue
London, Ontario
N5Y 2Y5
(519) 679-9932

Huron County

John Rutledge
194 St. David St.
Goderich, Ontario
N7A 1L8

ACO Executive

President

Julia Beck

Senior Vice-President

Alex Keefer

Vice-Presidents

Anne McKillop
Rod Angevarre

Treasurer

Debra Farrell

Secretary

Margaret Goodbody

Past President

Gilles Miramontes

Members-at-Large

Spencer Higgins
William Moffet
Alice King Sculthorpe
Shawn Steepe
Mary Angela Tucker

Advisory Board Chairman

Bill Greer

Executive Secretary

Ann Hughson

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Marg Rowell
131 William St. W.,
Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1K2
(519) 743-0833

Editors Emeriti

Marion Walker Garland
Peter John Stokes

President's Report

Not long ago, the director of a major hospital said "If we are to succeed in our work we must clearly define our purpose. In fact, we must not only recognise our main purpose but everything we do must be in accordance with this purpose. Let's not go off on tangents." The ACO has clearly defined its purpose. If members across the province, members of every age and background, were asked "What is the purpose (mission statement, aim) of the ACO?" they would probably answer with one voice "The purpose of the ACO is to preserve the best examples of the architecture of the province and to protect its places of natural beauty." Some would add "Of course, the first part takes precedence over the second part", and others would comment "We are often more concerned with conserving buildings than preserving them". Despite these qualifications the ACO does have a clearly defined purpose. Our troubles start when we fail to check that all our activities at both the branch level and the provincial level are in accordance with this purpose. They multiply when we fail to plan, or a shortage of money or manpower prevents us from carrying out our plans. The conference in Brantford on vernacular architecture forced many of us to reconsider our definition of a significant building. The 1993 conference in Port Hope will challenge us again because it will look at buildings not as individual structures but in their context.

In early November, we heard that our application for a grant from the Ministry of Culture and Communications to support the Port Hope conference has been approved: the project can now go ahead. Other projects - including the publication of papers from the Brantford conference, finishing the interior of the Skinner/Jackson house and furnishing it, and publishing a book inspired by Eric Arthur's photographs - depend largely on fund raising by the organisation. Various fund raising events are planned for 1993, but to emphasise that we need funds now, the appeal which appeared in the last issue of ACORN is repeated in a slightly different form.

I wish every member and our organisation a very happy and successful 1993.

Julia Beck.

Editorial

Embro is a little gem tucked into Oxford County near Woodstock. It will be explored in more detail in a later issue of ACORN. The town has a fine Town Hall that has recently been restored. Some interior work still needs to be finished. The citizens of Embro and surrounding areas should be very proud of themselves for taking on the project. Restoration is never easy and never inexpensive. At times it can be a daunting task. However, the people got together and made a plan, received some grants and went ahead with the work. We, who visited the hall, see the results of all this effort and perhaps don't realize what a big undertaking it is.

A project such as this can galvanize a whole community into action. When the job is done there is a tremendous sense of pride among all the participants. The whole town benefits in many ways from having the will and the courage to take on the task.

Those of us living in larger centres envy small towns. We have much more difficulty in getting enough people together to take pride in their buildings and take on such a project. Many times this task falls to the local branch of the ACO, who is sometimes seen as a special interest group rocking the boat again. However, we must keep at it. Heritage buildings would not fair as well as we were not there to watch over them and act when necessary. We have many reasons to be proud of ourselves. We have accomplished a lot in 60 years.

Have a happy holiday and a good 1993.

Council News

RESERVE THESE DATES

April 23 to 25, for two important back-to-back ACO events. A.K. Sculthorpe and her committee are mustering the well-known resources of Port Hope Branch to host our (second) annual conference on Friday April 23 and Saturday April 24. The conference theme is "From the Ground Up: Conserving Ontario's 19th Century Towns and Neighbourhoods." Our President was able to secure the financial assistance of the Ministry of Culture and Communications, and Senior Vice-President Alec Keefer is arranging the

programme. Dovetailing with the conference will be our traditional AGM activities, beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Detailed information to follow.

CAMDEN EAST

We now have a carpenter-in-residence at the Skinner-Jackson House. Our tenant Randy Rhem will be there until June, sanding floors and fitting kitchen cabinets to ready the house for its next phase - maybe as a Heritage Holiday Cottage? Randy's skills will save us a bundle, but we still have to pay for materials. Council has agreed to target all fund-raising for the rest of 1992 towards completion of the house.. Contributions, however small, are being sought from individual members and branches.

HIDDEN TREASURES

The treasures are historic buildings not normally open for public viewing. The treasure hunt is in the form of three-day weekend bus tours along Ontario's scenic historic routes. So far, two tours have been arranged - a June 4-6 drive along Hwy. 3 which runs through Windsor and St. Thomas, ending in London for lunch and the annual Geranium Walk House tour; and, on Labour Day weekend, a cruise down Hwy. 2 from Brockville to Belleville. Hidden Treasures is part of our 60th Anniversary celebrations in 1993.

RECENT MEETINGS

ACO Executive meets on the second Saturday of every month at 10 am at the Ontario Heritage Centre in Toronto. Full Council meets four times a year. These meetings are open to all members - check with your branch for schedules. The Programme Development Committee, which generates ideas for many Council initiatives, held their fall meeting recently with 60th Anniversary plans and the 1993 conference high on the agenda. The branch presidents are holding a second meeting for 1992 at the end of November. The yearly Presidents' Meeting held in conjunction with the AGM has proven to be so useful it was decided to do it more often.

Margaret Goodbody

Fund Raising Appeal

The ACO has transformed this



into this



Skinner/Jackson House, Camden East

We thank members who have donated to this appeal, but we still need \$5,00 to finish the interior of the cottage.

Remember - this was the only fund raising appeal the ACO made in 1992.

Remember:

- \$12.00 will buy 1 quart of paint
- \$30.00 will buy 1 square yard of vinyl flooring
- If every member gave \$10.00 we would raise \$17,000
- All donations are tax deductible

Send your donation marked **Camden East** to:

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 204
Toronto, Ontario M5C 1J3

*Thank you,
Provincial Council, ACO*

1993 Annual General Meeting

Plans are well in advance for the Annual Meeting, the 60th anniversary of the founding of the ACO. A.K. Sculthorpe is coordinating this special event in Port Hope.

Friday, April 23:

President's Meeting and Advisory Board Dinner at A.K. Sculthorpe's House.

Opening Reception: Location to be confirmed.

Saturday, April 24:

11 am - 12 noon: Registration St. John Parish Hall

Lunch on your own

1:30 pm: Walking Tour of Port Hope

4:00 pm: Tour of Capital Theatre

6:00 pm: Happy Hour at Trinity College School in Foyer outside Osler Hall

7:00 pm: Dinner and Speaker at Osler Hall. Cost \$20.00 per person.

Sunday, April 25:

9:30 am: Annual General Meeting Baterwood Badminton House

10:15: Branch Reports

12:00-1:30 pm: Lunch served by ACO members

1:30: Bus Tour of Hope Township to "Parkwood" (home of Col. Sam McLaughlin) in Oshawa.

ACCOMMODATION

Port Hope members will offer Bed and Breakfast in their heritage homes at \$25.00 per person. Other accommodations will be listed in the next ACORN.

Mark your calendar for April 23, 24, 25, 1993. All details and registration forms will be in the next issue of ACORN. Come celebrate 60 years of ACO.

First Notice and Call for Papers for a Conference:

FROM THE GROUND UP: CONSERVING ONTARIO'S 19TH CENTURY TOWNS & NEIGHBOURHOODS

To be held at Port Hope, Ont.
Friday, April 23, and Saturday,
April 24, 1993.

SESSION 1: INTENSIFICATION OF LAND USE (through retrofit & infill) to include: INFILL (the self-conscious, the anonymous, that which mimics, those that are hidden); AN APARTMENT IN EVERY HOUSE?; HISTORIC PRECEDENTS.

SESSION 2: USING WELL THE SPACE THAT'S LEFT (after we intensify) to include: THE IMPORTANCE OF NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS (reinforcing local character through landscaping); THE PROBLEM OF PARKED CARS (on the street, on the boulevard, the creation of lanes or lots); THE ROLE OF MUNICIPAL REGULATIONS.

Write: "FROM THE GROUND UP"
ACO, Suite 204
10 Adelaide St. E.
Toronto, Ont. M5C 1J3

Organized by the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, on the occasion of its 60th Anniversary.

"The assistance of the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of Culture and Communications, is acknowledged."

Stencil and Stone House Tour

On Saturday October 17th, the Oxford Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario was joined by the North Waterloo and London Branch for a tour of two towns and stone houses in North Oxford. The tour began in the 1892 Embro Town Hall. This building was designed by Mr. Cuthbertson of Woodstock with contractors J.L. Youngs of Stratford, E.A. Cawsey of St. Mary's, and stone mason Andrew Bain. On Labour Day Weekend, the town of Embro held a birthday party for the hall with a variety show, market, book sale, display, historic council meeting, historic fashion show, dinner and dance, and a joint church service. The event was a roaring success with proceeds to go towards further restoration of this building. The Township of Zorra, after strong community pressure, began work in spring 1992 to upgrade the heating and electrical work, insulate exterior walls, repair trim, and install interior storm windows. Before this work commenced, paint testing of the upper hall revealed original stenciling. Sampling has allowed the replication of the wainscoting and cornice stencil. The Township of Zorra have agreed to restore the interior decoration of the Hall to its original appearance with the application of original paint colours and stencils. Of most interest was the discovery of a painted proscenium, with one two foot section untouched. In early April 1993, the Embro Town Hall will host "Carnegie's Daughter: The Cassie Chadwick Story". All proceeds from this production will go towards the cost of the replication of the original proscenium and further restoration of the hall. Funding for this project has been provided by the Reflection '92 program of the Ministry of Culture and Communications.

WALKING TOUR OF EMBRO

Our tour leader, Sheila Johnson, then took us on a walk through part of Embro. We did not have time to see all of the town, but Embro has some fine architecture and in a future issue of



Tousaw House
Bob Rowell

ACORN there will be a feature article on the buildings of Embro.

TOUSAW HOUSE

The bus then proceeded on a short drive through the country to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tousaw. The house, built by Scottish stone masons in 1885, is constructed of cut granite fieldstone. It commands an imposing site on a hill overlooking the countryside. It is a handsome structure with stone quoins and lintels. A projecting centre bay has a round window in the peak as well as ornate woodwork in the gable. The vaulted porch is supported by wooden columns. This porch is not original to the house. The attractive front door with side lights and transom leads into a generous front hall with the living room to the left. The master bedroom is on the right and the kitchen is in a stone tail attached to the rear of the main block. To the right of the kitchen is an enclosed sunporch that offers a wonderful view of the surrounding farmland.

TAVISTOCK

The tour then journeyed to Tavistock for lunch at Quailes. Bill Gladding of the East-Zorra LACAC provided the group with a walking tour map and history of Tavistock. A shortage of time prevented us from doing justice to this tour and many of us planned to return in the Spring and explore Tavistock.

The bus then proceeded to Cornerstone Books. A store filled with new and used books, many of them on architecture and antiques. A number of the group went home with some books that you do not find in the regular outlets.

DANEN STONE HOUSE

A short ride brought us to the Danen House, owned by Ted and Diane Danen. This is a Germanic fieldstone farmhouse built about 1857. It is a two storey five bay house with two part windows, a change from the original small paned casement windows. The

tail houses the country kitchen that Ted and Diane have renovated. They have done a lot of work on the house and the portion that is finished has been very well done. The home retains original trim, woodwork and stairs and most remarkably original stencilling, that possibly dates to the 1880s. It is a vibrant intricate stencil that covers the walls and ceiling of the left front room. Some bedrooms also had some of the same type of stencilling but not an all over treatment as in the front room. The walls of the stencilled room are a medium olive green with a reddish brown stencil. This was clearly the work of an itinerant stenciller, for several of the houses in this area contain stencilled rooms.

The bus then returned to Embro. All members and guests of the three branches were very grateful to Sheila Johnson of Heritage Oxford for organizing a most enjoyable day.

Sheila Johnson
Ed Bennett
Marg Rowell



Danen House
Bob Rowell

Branch Reports

Port Hope

ANNUAL HOUSE TOUR

This year the Port Hope ACO Annual House Tour was an unqualified success. The celebration of Hope Township's Bicentennial gave us our theme. With 3 beautiful houses, and St. Paul's Perrytown Church and Fudge's Mill on tour in the Township, all we needed was a beautiful fall day to compliment the buildings. Well, it was the most beautiful day in recent memory. Everyone who participated on the Tour loved the drive in Hope Township. Many people come from outside this area and never had the experience of driving on the backroads of Hope. I had the opportunity to talk to many of our "guests", and despite the dust on the roads, they all enjoyed the splendor of the hills accented with the crimson colours of the maples.

Fudge's Mill was an absolute must see. When I first pulled up to the Mill, I immediately was taken back to my childhood in rural Ontario. How often do you get to see a Mill perched on a single lane road and the mill pond immediately on the other side? This is a working Mill and I urge you to go back and visit Bob Fudge on a Saturday when he is grinding grain.

St. Paul's had the best view in the county that day and a wonderful luncheon to aid in the restoration of that building.

The Currelly House, The Mill House (in Canton) and the Kenton House completed the Tour in the Township. Each house is beautifully situated on their properties and offered a visual feat for the architectural eye.

Back in Port Hope we started the Tour with the Memorial Bandshell in Memorial Park. Now fully restored (an ACO sponsored project) and relocated, we were pleased to offer this on tour to our patrons. St. Mark's Church served muffins and coffee from the Memorial Bandshell to aid in the funding of the restoration of their Church.

In Port Hope there was a variety of 5 houses on tour including the home of Andrew Posa and Pat Mearns at 50

King St., and the Herriman/Brown house on John St. Dr. Herriman was in the first graduating class in medicine at Queen's University.

As well, everyone was delighted with Homewood, the home of Peter Brown. Built at the turn of the century, this building was originally frame but was stuccoed in the 1920s. Peter last year allowed the grounds of Homewood to be on the Garden Tour for ACO and we are indebted to him again this year for generously opening his home for our cause.

Also in Port Hope the Proctor House on Wellington Street was on tour, where everyone had to stop to look and see the name "T or J BLETH-ER 1858" scratched in the sidelight.

Everyone was anxious to see the house of Tom Cruickshank (a well-known magazine editor), in the Billiard House, Penryn Park. They were not disappointed, built in 1900 the design for this building was taken from the Big House across the road. The main floor was a billiard room at the far end is a brick fireplace, with a tinted photo on glass lighted from the outside, the chimney flue splits around the tinted glass photo.

Tour Headquarters were at the Town Hall, where a display by the East Durham Historical Society had been set up. Hope Township LACAC had 2 excellent educational displays. One was a series of posters titled "The Windows of Hope", each showing an example of a window pattern, i.e. 6 over 6, 12 or 12, or 20 over 20. As well Hope Township LACAC had an excellent audio visual display on the history of Hope Township.

Finally at the Town Hall the ACO again had a display from Tom Long's and the Long Family Photo Collection. It is with great sadness that I must tell you that Tom Long passed away on Thursday, October 15, 1992. Just 2 weeks following the Tour. Mr. Long was a great friend of Port Hope and the Port Hope Branch of the ACO. His photo collection was an invaluable resource for the ACO and the Port Hope LACAC in documenting buildings for restoration.

Amy Quinn
House Tour Chair

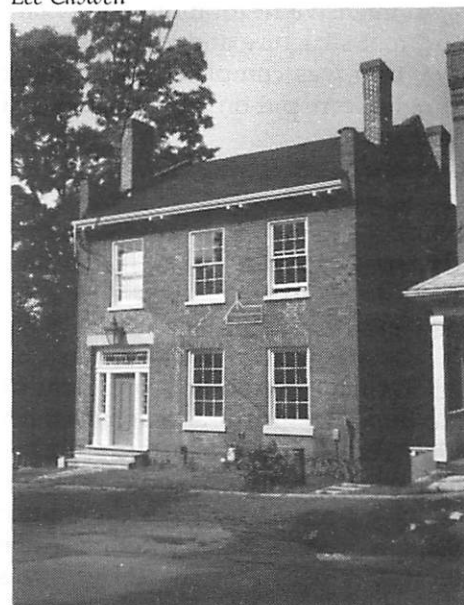
1992 HERITAGE FUND RECIPIENTS

Two projects were chosen as the 1992 Port Hope ACO Heritage Fund Recipients. They were 92 King St., and the Bluestone.

The Bluestone restoration included hammer-dressed stone steps, replacing concrete 20th century make-do steps (which engulfed the original deteriorated stone steps). The restoration of the wooden columns of the portico took place at the same time. The restoration of the steps represents another important period details which is once again gracing this fantastic early Port Hope home.

92 King Street (just around the corner from the Bluestone) is an imposing brick town house which received replacement 6 over 6 sash with the help of the Heritage Fund. Soffits and fascia were restored as well. The whole front entry way was refastened, stripped and repainted. This Georgian style 1840s town house now becomes an asset and focal point to Port Hope's often viewed King Street.

Lee Caswell



92 King Street, Port Hope
Lee Caswell

RESTORATIONS ABOUT TOWN

166 Dorset St. W.

Restoration of the lovely Regency Cottage c1860 is now complete. Exterior work includes brickwork, porch restoration, door and window restoration as well as new paint. The interior had suffered many alterations over the

years. Present work has returned this home to its elegant straight-forward roots.



59 King Street, Port Hope

Lee Castwell

59 King Street:

An intensive restoration of the mansard roof structure and elaborate window trim was completed. New cedar shingles were put on. It was a job well done.

Brant County

NEW BRANCH OFFICERS

Bill Darfler was elected president of the Brant County Branch on October 19th. For a couple of years, Bill has been one of the ACO representatives on the Brantford Heritage Committee (LACAC). At the same meeting, Anne Westaway, Chair of the B.H.C., was elected as one of the Branch Councilors. Some other members of the Heritage Committee have recently become members of the ACO. Because of these elections, it is hoped that activities of the two groups will now be more closely coordinated than previously.

Bill made a presentation to City Council shortly after his election. It is mandatory to get a bit of background to the topic of the presentation. It was recently brought to the attention of the Brantford Heritage Committee that

there were several potential work orders against a house in the downtown area, on Nelson Street, between Charlotte and Clarence.

The house is one of about half a dozen nearly identical quasi Queen Anne Revival houses built around the turn of the century. These houses were not great architecture, but they did form part of an attractive and comfortable neighbourhood. One of the houses is still standing and in reasonably good condition. Another is the subject of these words. The rest have disappeared, to be replaced by the ubiquitous lots.

Bill's presentation to Council was on this process. He pointed out that private developers take over the function of urban planning because of their aggressiveness and because of the City's negligence. Developers gradually acquire properties in a location that has potential for high density development, commercial or residential. Then by deferred maintenance, the buildings, one by one, approach the state of dereliction. The City becomes alarmed because of the condition and is thus amenable to issuing demolition permits. After a reasonable period, the developer presents to the municipality a plan for redevelopment, with only a

couple of buildings standing in the way. The upshot of all this is that urban planning is being done by the developer by setting up a series of circumstances to each of which the City accedes, with the result that the developer's plan is successful.

By outlining this procedure, Bill was able to show his grasp of the way that municipalities are manipulated by developers, while at the same time, he avoided taking a confrontational approach over a particular building whose importance is not in the top category.

Michael Keefe

Heritage Cambridge

THE OLD GALT HOSPITAL (EVENTIDE HOME)

ONE OF THE LAST OF THE PUBLIC
INSTITUTIONS OF LATE 19TH CENTURY GALT
TO BE DEMOLISHED BY SALVATION ARMY

Heritage Cambridge is continuing its efforts to try to save the Old Galt Hospital. But LACAC by voting not to designate the hospital has pulled the rug out from under us and left us with almost no maneuvering room. Our board member Fred McGarry, speaking on behalf of Heritage Cambridge at the LACAC meeting, made a most eloquent plea for designation. He pointed out that the old hospital met LACAC's own criteria for designation both historically and architecturally and therefore under the Ontario Heritage act should be designated. However, LACAC reversed their previous decision and voted 4 to 3 against designation with the deciding vote being cast by LACAC chair Terry Gallamore.

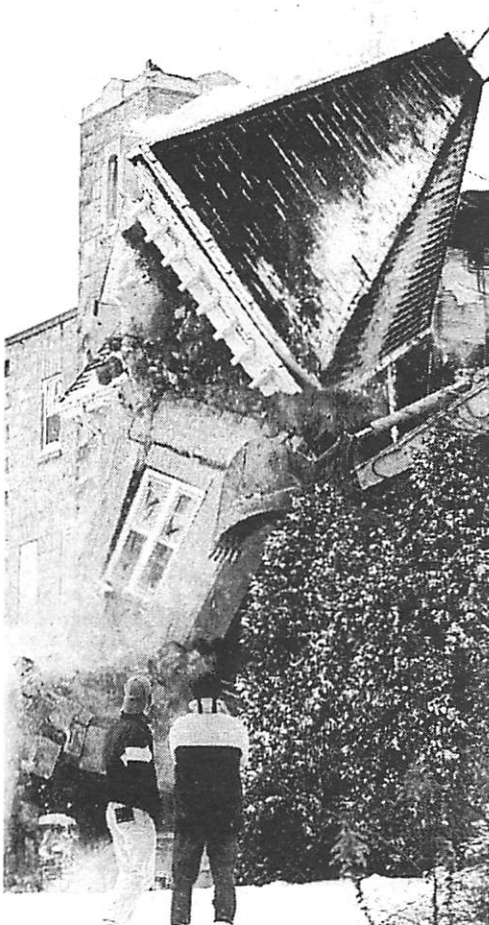
Prior to this meeting HC chair Lynda Schneider had attended two meetings with the Salvation Army, LACAC, and City Planners (one meeting on site) in an effort to save the building. At the time the Salvation Army complained that they were unable to secure the building and it was a danger to the vandals who invaded it. Their efforts to secure the building were half hearted to say the least. The basement windows had plywood partially covering them. Some second floor openings were completely open

and were left this way for long periods of time.

The HC board offered to take responsibility for securing the building by cement blocking all basement, first storey, and second storey openings, and to pay for public liability insurance. The Salvation Army's reply to this was that they "will not entertain any proposals respecting securing the building. ...If however, (prior to signing demolition contract)... you are able to present to us an acceptable unconditional agreement to purchase the subject property we would be most happy to entertain the same".

At this point the Heritage Cambridge Board has retained a lawyer to see what legal options are open to us to try and prevent its destruction.

Hugh Thompson has been commissioned by Heritage Cambridge to prepare a rendering of the Old Galt Hospital depicting it in its original condition. We hope to add this to our collection of drawings of Cambridge buildings and sell reproductions of it in the future.



Old Galt Hospital demolished.

Peter Lee, K-W Record staff
Used with permission of the K-W Record.

HOSPITAL DEMOLISHED

We learned on Saturday, December 5, 1992 that Heritage Cambridge had been denied a 10-day injunction in a Kitchener courtroom, that would have prevented the Salvation Army from demolishing the building for a little while, until, hopefully, another solution could be found.

"In addition to the injunction, Heritage Cambridge asked the court for a judicial review of the process the city's local architectural conservation advisory committee used to decide not to temporarily protect the building by giving it a heritage designation."

"The court rejected the review and, at the conclusion of the hearing, ordered Heritage Cambridge to immediately pay the Salvation Army's client-solicitor costs of \$3,500."

On Saturday morning, December 5, the Salvation Army had the building demolished. It took just three hours to destroy the 102 year old structure. None of the 20,000 square feet of red oak flooring, gingerbread brackets or original glass was salvaged.

1 From the K-W Record, Monday, December 7, 1992

Heritage Oxford

DESIGNATION OF PERRY STREET FIRE HALL

In November 1992, the Perry Street firehall was designated a heritage site under the provincial Heritage Act by the Woodstock LACAC.

WOODSTOCK MARKET NEWS

Pro Urban Developments Ltd., were allowed a third extension by Woodstock City Council to give this Brampton company additional time to secure tenants. City Council will proceed with a new roof for the building, which will include replacing several of the original skylights and clerestory windows. Pro Urban will reimburse the city for roof construction costs.

DR. LEVI H. PERRY HOUSE 1819

The current owner of the "House in the Valley" has been busy completing a number of repairs. One Friday, November 13th, the executive of the Ox-

ford Branch ACO had the privilege of touring the Dr. Levi H. Perry house with the current owner Mr. Judickas. The roof has been shingled and the structure repaired, a fireplace has been built into the first floor with new chimneys, the rafters have been repaired, a new washroom has been installed with all new plumbing, the flooring in the living room has been replaced, most of the wiring has been replaced, new drywall and insulation has been installed where required, trim has been replaced where required, the exterior siding has been replaced as required, and painted. Much of this work is in keeping with the report on the property completed by Anthony Butler, Architect, in 1989.

WALKING TOURS

The Woodstock Museum and Local History Department of the Woodstock Public Library is working not only to reprint the Vansittart Ave and 10 Historic Public Buildings walking tours, but to complete the next two additions, A Stroll Down Light Street, and Temples of Heritage, a driving tour of historic Churches in Woodstock. All brochures available this Spring.

London Region

EAST WOODFIELD - LONDON'S FIRST HERITAGE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

London City Council on November 2, 1992 approved that city's first heritage conservation district in the East Woodfield area. Ontario Municipal Board approval is still required. The district is in the eastern part of the residential neighbourhood located north and east of Downtown London. It includes most of the area bounded by Queens Avenue, Maitland Street, Central Avenue, William Street, Princess Avenue and Adelaide Street. One hundred and sixty eight properties are included, twelve of which were previously designated individually. The area is characterized by late 19th century houses of local buff brick in Italianate, High Victoria, Queen Anne and Vernacular styles. The houses were first constructed for the families of London's industrialists, bankers, merchants and tradesmen.



462-466 Dufferin Ave. c 1888-1890

"Fitzgerald Corners" location of a family grocery store for over thirty years.

Howard Pulver

Neighbourhood property owners were solidly behind the establishment of the heritage conservation district after many years of effort by the Woodfield Community Association. The area has seen a renaissance from the 1970s when few families chose to live in this central city neighbourhood and many of the house had been changed into small apartments or rooming houses. Today, it is a desirable residential neighbourhood where many owner occupants have been undertaking restoration projects. The conservation district designation will assist in stabilizing the area and in protecting it from inappropriate change. Consideration is being given to identifying the area by the installation of unique street signs.

GROSVENOR LODGE BECOMES THE LONDON REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR HERITAGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The historic 1853 Tudor Revival estate of Samuel Peters, "Grosvenor Lodge" on Western Road in London, became the London Regional Resource Centre for Heritage and the Environment and a home for ten different volunteer groups on June 24, 1992.

Samuel Peters, a surveyor, landowner and businessman in the area west of the Blackfriars Bridge, had the house designed by Samuel Peters Jr., his nephew who was also London's first city engineer. The property was

owned and lived in by his descendants until 1972 when it was purchased by the University of Western Ontario. The London Historical Museums took over the house in 1981 and operated it as a museum until 1990. They found that the layout posed problems for setting up museum displays and that the location away from downtown London caused difficulties in attracting reasonable attendance.

Used as the site of "Interiors" the annual interior design showcase fund raiser for Orchestra London in 1990, subsequently the building was vacant. The City solicited proposals from the community to make an appropriate use for this designated property.

A number of proposals were received including proposals for a museum operated by a volunteer committee, a centre devoted to the history of the Donnelly Family of Lucan, a birthing centre, a staff development centre for a number of public bodies and an AIDS hospice.

The AIDS hospice group had a well developed proposal which was well received by London City Council. Some heritage group members had concerns about the physical modifications which might be required and the possible negative public perception which might be associated with this use which could threaten the long term preservation of the building.

A group of citizens involved with ten heritage and environmental groups got together to develop their own proposal. Those actively involved included Wil Harlock of the Woodfield Community Association, who became the coordinator, Michael Baker -



Grosvenor Lodge, 1017 Western Road, London. 1853.
London Regional Resource Centre for Heritage and the Environment.
City of London

Chair of the London Region Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and Kim Pratt - Chair of the London Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee. They developed an ambitious proposal to appropriately conserve the estate house and coach house while using the space for a combination of office space, meeting rooms, exhibits, public workshops, retail space and research facility to cater to all of the groups involved. The Heritage London Foundation, which operated the Elsie Perrin Williams estate as a reception facility, was the sponsor. The proposal was supported by City Council and approved on March 2, 1992.

The centre is now in operation and a number of projects are underway with the assistance of staff and students from programs at the University of Western Ontario and Fanshawe College. These include the establishment of an environmental data base, cataloguing the library materials which have been obtained, looking at options for the adjacent open space areas and developing a strategic plan for the operation of the centre. Future plans for the centre include the establishment of a library resource centre, setting up a retail sales area and increasing community awareness of the centre. The events which have been planned for Heritage Week should help to spread the word.

HERITAGE WEEK

Grosvenor Lodge, London Central Public Library, the London Regional Art Gallery and the Elsie Perrin Williams Estate are all being used for a week long schedule of events. Those which have been confirmed are:

Saturday February 13, 1993:

Heritage Fair, Central Public Library;

Sunday February 14, 1993:

Grosvenor Lodge Open House Displays and Heritage Activities;

Tuesday, February 18, 1993:

Joint Meeting of Architectural Conservancy and London and Middlesex Historical Society at Grosvenor Lodge; Dr. L. Distefano and M. Baker speaking on Grosvenor Lodge and the Peters legacy;

Thursday, February 18, 1993:

Ontario Archaeological Society at Grosvenor Lodge; Ron Williamson

speaking on Snake Hill;

Friday, February 19, 1993:

Dorothy Duncan speaking on Consuming Passions, London Regional Art Gallery;

Sunday, February 21, 1993:

Pauline Hancock speaking on Heritage gardens; Elsie Perrin Williams Estate; Heritage London Foundation Annual Meeting.

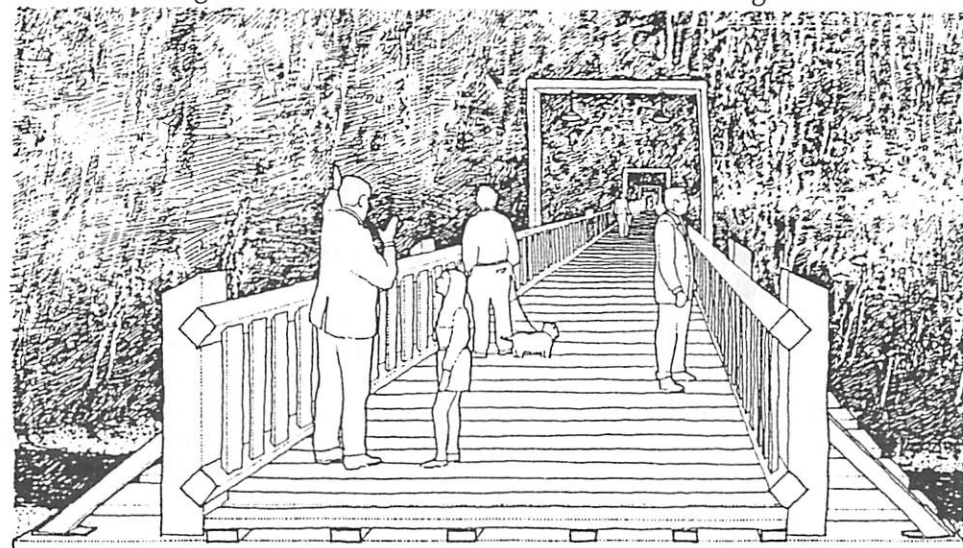
Additional information on any of these events can be obtained from the staff at Grosvenor Lodge. The telephone number is (519) 645-2845.

Howard Pulver

Huron County

THE MENESSETUNG BRIDGE ON THE TIGER DUNLOP HERITAGE TRAIL

It was three years ago that CPR contractors closed in on Goderich to begin the demolition of the abandoned Goderich-to-Guelph rail line. The tracks and ties were torn up during the summer of 1989. The smaller of two bridges in Goderich was demolished late that same year. The formidable 700 foot long bridge spanning the Maitland River was scheduled for demolition in January 1990. This bridge, which has become known as the Menesetung Bridge, was saved from destruction and has been given a new and exciting life.



The Menesetung Bridge

From 1905 to 1907 the Guelph and Goderich Rail Company constructed 132 kilometres of rails line between

the two communities. Construction of the Menesetung Bridge started April 1906. At the time of its construction, it was the longest rail bridge in Ontario. The first fully operational passenger and freight service commenced in the summer of 1907. Regular service continued on the line up to the late 1970s. The last steam locomotive passed over the bridge in 1977 and the last diesel locomotive crossed the bridge on December 1988. The rail line between Guelph and Goderich was abandoned by CPR in March 1987.

When word of the pending fate of the bridge spread around the community a small group of concerned citizens emerged to lobby for the preservation of the structure. The group adopted the name "Friends of the Bridge Committee". The Committee members argued that the preservation and conversion of the bridge was an investment in the future of our community. The only other bridge at the north end of the town is an extremely busy highway traffic bridge which is hostile to, and potentially dangerous for, pedestrian traffic. The old bridge converted represented a safe, scenic, and accessible link across the river valley. It was an opportunity to capitalize on the reuse of an existing structure while at the same time respecting a part of our local heritage.

In the last few weeks of 1989, while still in its infancy, the Committee was successful in soliciting the moral and

financial support of several of the local service clubs. In cooperation with the Town of Goderich, the Committee was

able to raise \$5000 to buy a six month reprieve from the demolition contractor. To actually save the bridge, another \$13,000 was required by July 1990.

The momentum surrounding the efforts of the Friends of the Bridge Committee built steadily following this initial success. Recognizing that the project was a long term commitment, the Committee reformed itself into a registered charitable corporation entitled Menesetung Bridge Association Incorporated. The Board of Directors began the task of outlining a master plan to redevelop the bridge and the abandoned rail bed into a linear park. Goderich is already blessed with a series of lake front boardwalks and trails and it seemed natural that the old rail bed be considered an extension of the existing recreational system. The bridge would then provide a direct link between the town and the Tiger Dunlop Tomb and the British Commonwealth Air training Site at the airport. (Dr. William "Tiger" Dunlop (1792-1848) was a physician, author, woodsman, soldier, politician, and raconteur. As "Warden of the Forests" for the Canada Company, he assisted John Galt in opening up the Huron Tract and in 1827 founded Goderich. Tiger Dunlop is entombed high on a ridge site on the north bank of the Maitland River. The tomb overlooks the valley, the harbour, and the town of Goderich.)

The Association adopted a five phase plan. Phase I objective was to save the bridge from demolition. Phase II required securing the access rights to the bridge and to the abandoned rail beds on both the north and the south banks of the river valley. Phase III involved a fund raising campaign to raise money for the construction of a deck and guard system over the existing bridge, and the construction of an access to the bridge from North Harbour Road. Phase IV sought to connect the north end of the bridge to the Tiger Dunlop Tomb by a path along the existing rail bed. Phase V concluded with the ultimate objective of integrating the bridge and its pathway into the Goderich Waterfront Master Plan as an extension to the recreation boardwalk.

By late summer 1990 the next \$13,000 was raised through private do-

nations and with the repeated support of the service clubs. The Association now owned the demolition rights to the bridge. Objective I realized.

The Peterson government of the late 1980s launched an Inter-Ministerial Committee to study the potential of abandoned rail lines in Ontario. The report submitted to the Cabinet recommended the Goderich to Guelph line be acquired by the government for future use. It is our understanding that the current provincial government is continuing to negotiate with CPR for the purchase of the entire line. We await some solid evidence to that affect.

In the meantime, the Province did sign off its interest in any rail lands within Town limits. Funding restraints dictated that the Association could only purchase the two parcels which were the most important to our objectives. The value of the land acquisition was \$8,600. The Association took possession January 1992. Objective II realized.

The concerted fund raising campaign was launched April 1992. Donations of \$20 would be recognized by a fourteen letter inscription in a 2"x6" plank in the boardwalk. A donation of \$100 would warrant a two line inscription in a plaque mounted in a railing section. Donations of \$500 plus would be acknowledged on a cast plaque located on a very large rock at the entrance to the trail. An estimated 1400 planks and 240 rail sections were available. The response to date has been overwhelming - over 1200 planks have been engraved with the names of donors, and 180 railing plaques have been ordered. The dollar value of donations from this fundraiser and from all other sources exceeds \$87,000!

In preparation for the reconstruction project the Association applied for a Provincial Ministry of Tourism and Recreation (MTR) capital grant. Purchase of lands and the construction of the trail and the pedestrian walkway qualify for 1/3rd funding. Application for this grant was made in the fall of 1991.

Separate tenders were requested in February for the supply of materials and for the construction of the bridge walkway. The costs related to contracting out the installation of the walkway were found to be prohibi-

tive. The Association decided to undertake the construction partly on a contract basis and partly on a volunteer basis. Separate contracts were awarded for the off-site prefabrication of the railing sections, for the prefabrication of the structural steel brackets, and for the supply of approximately \$24,000 worth of lumber.

Installation of the railings and decking on the bridge commenced mid-May 1992. All of the on site work was done by volunteer labour. In less than six weeks the bridge was completed. This momentous occasion was celebrated with a "last spike" ceremony at which Lieutenant General H.R. Jackman drove in the last spike in the ceremonial last plank. Since the time the bridge became safe and passable, hundred of people have experienced the thrill of walking 75 feet above the Maitland River and enjoying the beautiful views.

The bridge was officially opened July 1, 1992 as part of Goderich's Canada Day 125 Celebrations. Approximately two hundred enthusiasts gathered at the old CPR station house on the waterfront and partook in the inaugural walk along the Tiger Dunlop Heritage Trail and across the Menesetung Bridge. A ribbon cutting ceremony attended by several dignitaries was performed at the south end of the bridge. Oh yes, Paul Klopp MPP announced during the ceremonies that the Association's grant application has been approved for some \$40,000.

By the end of the summer the hard packed gravel pathway up to the bridge, the boardwalk across the bridge and several tributary foot paths had been completed. The value of construction materials, donated services, and volunteer labour for the completed project has totalled closed to \$120,000. 1992 was a year that surpassed all expectations, and concluded Phase III of the masterplan. A dramatic turn-around for an old bridge in just three years.

The outcome of the Province's negotiation with CPR for the rail lands to the north of the bridge remains uncertain. So a report on Phase IV and V will have to wait for a later date.

Menesetung is the Atta Wandron Indian name for the Maitland River. Interpretations for the word include "where the river meets the big water"

and "laughing water". In the early years of the rail line, a station house known as Menesetung Station was located on the north bank.

Allan Arvis
Goderich Architect and
Treasurer of the Menesetung Bridge
Association

Evergreen Lodge

THE JOSEPH THOMAS HOUSE 1835,
1026 COLBORNE STREET,
BRANTFORD (CAINSVILLE), ONTARIO

SUMMARY

The Joseph Thomas House, enlarged and converted to apartments now known as Evergreen Lodge, was the subject of a visit and brief examination on 18th September 1992 to assess its possible preservation.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL ASSESSMENT

The building is connected with members of one of the earliest families to settle in the area and who had links with the beginning of settlement and development in the vicinity. It would appear that the village of Cayuga Heights, later Cainsville, developed round about the original farm lot which appears to have had the first house built in the neighbourhood.

Outlines noted in a contract and appended description dated 1835 between Joseph Thomas and Wm. Abbott would appear to refer closely to this house, establishing its construction date corroborated by the style of trim used.

This house is an unusual dwelling, however, not subscribing to the traditional centre or side hall plans current at the time. With its cross hall, side entrance and T-shaped plan it is a very particular design. Couple this with the calibre of detail, the fascinating hierarchy of trim spelling out the functions of rooms and the survival of so much of the original, this becomes a candidate for designation under Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Although its immediate setting may now be unremarkable it would seem

appropriate to try to preserve it on its original property and to ensure that it continues as a focal point and to enjoy its prospect of the Grand. As a centrepiece to the proposed development it would offer a unique opportunity to create a special project and an exceptional example.

SITE AND SETTING

The house occupies a more or less level site set back on the north side of Colborne Street (Highways 2 and 53) to face south overlooking the Grand River valley. It is located in the front west quarter of an L-shaped lot of some four and a half acres having a frontage of some 250 feet, a depth of about 600 feet.

Some well grown spruce trees adorn the lot and the remains of an orchard occupy the east section. A gable-roofed storey-and-a-half frame shed stands close to the lot line behind the house, this structure once was a peanut butter factory (1914-1942) and is now a storage building. Otherwise the site is unremarkable.

wing and dormers inserted in the roof for the upstairs apartment. Later siding of cement-asbestos shingles has been applied over wood cladding. Chimneys have been rebuilt, the east one removed entirely. A corner window now occurs in the front of the west wing and a later porch shelters the side entrance.

The original house, a T-shaped block with broad stem and shallower bar across the back, still has original windows of twelve-over-twelve panes (10" x 14" glass to front section, 8" x 10" glass to rear), and fixed louvred shutters to the front. Moreover the side entrance doorcase is still largely intact and resotation of missing detail would be relatively simple. This hipped roof structure resembles a rambling Regency cottage in effect. The organization of the plan resulting in a side entrance is unusual but permitted additional front exposure to best Bedroom and Kitchen in the side wings.

INTERIOR

Internal arrangements resulting from



1026 Colborne St. E., Brantford.

The front door is a later alteration. Note the 12/12 windows.

Michael Keefe

EXTERIOR

Although the building has been much extended and somewhat altered inside and out over the years and has been converted into apartments, the original house is still readily discernible and changes can be recognized easily. There is considerable original detail surviving both externally and internally.

Later extensions include the front vestibule, east sunroom, lean-to behind the west wing, two-storey rear

the cross hall separated into Entrance Hall or Vestibule and Back Hall make for an interesting and unfamiliar layout, the principal reception rooms of Best Parlour (Drawing Room) and Dining Parlour (Dining Room) occupying the front of the house with the best prospect, the Bedrooms across the back, the Kitchen at the east end. The use of rooms is still clearly indicated by the hierarchy of trim, the most elaborate, a pilastered form with corner blocks and including the most notable mantel, a design with bold colonettes,

signifies the Best Parlour, the south-west room in the front section. The next most elaborate, with fillet/cove/bed/fillet backmould, and like the Best Parlour with panelled reveals and spandrels to windows, is the Dining Parlour adjacent in the south-east corner, but here the mantel, described as columned, and fireplace are missing and the room has been reduced in size to accommodate apartment bathroom and storeroom.

Three Bedrooms occur across the back, the Best Bedroom in the north-west corner having the third most elaborate trim with a fillet/cove/fillet backmould and a pilastered mantel heralding the Greek Revival. The Halls have the fourth devolution of trim. The Best Bedroom reached from the Entrance Hall has been somewhat modified by later changes and access to new additions and reworking of the entrance to the Bedroom alongside, formerly opening off the Entrance Hall through the cupboard to the north of the fireplace. This latter Bedroom, that alongside (in the neighbouring apartment) and Kitchen in the east wing have the fifth devolution of trim with fillet/ovolo/fillet backmould, the ovolo somewhat flattened and approaching the straighter angularity of the Greek Revival most popular in the 1840s and 1850s.

The Kitchen originally had a long narrow room alongside it to the west, a room which may have been the Clothes Press noted in the description but which might also have served equally well as a Pantry or Slip Room i.e., a small Bedchamber for a servant. But this area has been changed by removing the kitchen chimney and enlarging the space for the apartment kitchen.

Ceiling cornices and moulded bands occur in both halls and the Best Parlour, but an acoustic tile ceiling hides any decoration in the reduced Dining Parlour now serving as a bedroom to the apartment. More recent changes include also 1930s bevelled glass doors to entrance and archway in the hall and the corner window in the Best Bedroom which does use an old upper sash. More recent decoration, in what appears to be a low relief stucco paint, has created friezes and panelling to halls and the former Best Parlour. Floor coverings are largely modern,

but from below much of the original floor planking can be seen.

Upstairs the detail is all modern and the creation of an apartment in the roof space resulted in the removal of some of the cross timbers tying the tops of walls. The entrance necessitated the addition of the small gable-roofed vestibule to the front and a stair occupying a cupboard opening off the former Dining Parlour.

OTHER ASPECTS

The original house had cellars under the wings only, a crawlspace between. Part of the latter adjacent to the east cellar has been excavated later to house the hot water heating units which supply modern cast iron radiation. The cellars and crawlspaces are very damp with inadequate cross ventilation.

Other services were not examined in detail, these being realted to the apartment conversion and not thought adaptable in considering future treatment of the building.

STRUCTURE

The structure is an immensely massive timber form with amazingly thick outer walls. Framing includes hewn main members, mostly 12" x 12" with straight-sawn secondary members such as joists and rafters. The original floor framing seems to cater to the layout above, with main beams supporting partitions in the eighteenth century manner, like the Fairfield White House of 1793 near Kingston.

However the wall structure could not be examined in detail at this time. The roof was inspected in two locations and apart from the removal of tie beams was generally in very good order, the roof deck tightly boarded.

PHYSICAL CONDITION

Normal maintenance is needed externally and some conservation of surviving original joinery. The building has an asphalt shingle roof, its remaining life not assessed. Cedar-grained asbestos shingles have been applied over strapping to exterior walls, the original wood cladding underneath still appearing in good condition, but where revealed, in need of paint.

Because of the damp conditions in underfloor areas there are various incidences of minor decay and brown rot, but nothing to create undue alarm or condemn the building on structural grounds. However, certain reinforcement and repair are obviously necessary and, should the building be considered for moving precautions must be taken to strengthen weak areas and re-establish cross ties where necessary, as in roof spaces.

The later additions were not examined structurally as these appendages ere not considered as contributory; their removal to be recommended.

IN CONCLUSION

The Joseph Thomas House of 1835 is a remarkable and unusual house with a complement of fine exterior and interior detail. The building is worthy of designation under Part 4 of the Ontario Heritage Act on architectural merit alone and in addition has important historical connections to the area. The ultimate restoration of the original house seems eminently practicable, especially considering the removal of the later additions and alterations.

Although the immediate setting of the house might be though unremarkable its siting back from the road is attractive. Relocation of the building within the property, even further back, is a good possibility, but its prospect of the Grand River valley should be maintained and the focal view of it preserved. In the words of Sir Lancelot Brown the proposed development certainly has capabilities, not the least of which is the conservation of the Joseph Thomas House as its centrepiece, a heritage building which modestly expresses itself with *Commodity, Firmness and Delight*.

This report is reprinted with the permission of the Brantford Heritage Committee (LACAC), Anne Westaway, Chairman.

Peter John Stokes

Advisory Board Report

William Greer, chairman of the Advisory Board reports that several requests have come to the Board. They are from:

- The Parkdale Area in Toronto
- Ajax LACAC re the moving of the Arnold House
- A request for an assessment of all buildings at the Pioneer Village in Port Perry
- Christ Church, Anglican, in Vittoria.

A selection of these reports will appear in a future ACORN.

Shutters: The Cosmetic Variety and the Real McCoy

Do those too narrow, too wide, too short or too long decorative shutters made by the million to paste on to the faces of buildings as decorative improvements drive you out of your mind? Such cosmetic shutters we find extremely irritating. Most are usually so poorly designed that they are purely pastiche and not always decorative. A shutter must be half the opening of the window at the inside frame line at the edge of the sash and height to fit the opening in the same plane between the underside of head and top of subsill or sill, if a subsill is not present. Preferably shutters should be hung from the frame on the appropriate hardware. Slight wear or looseness of such hinges, particularly cast patterns, usually makes the shutter splay out slightly at the top when open against the wall. If louvered, the louvres fixed, the openings slant down and into the wall when open so that when closed across the opening the louvres slant down and outwards as weather protection. Early shutters of the fixed louver pattern were often referred to

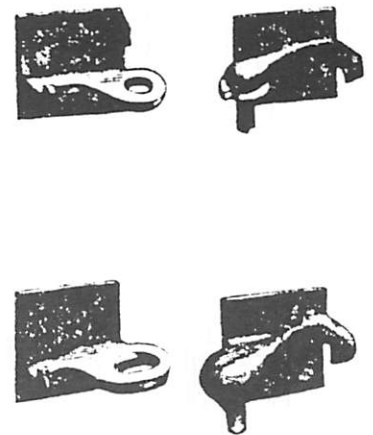
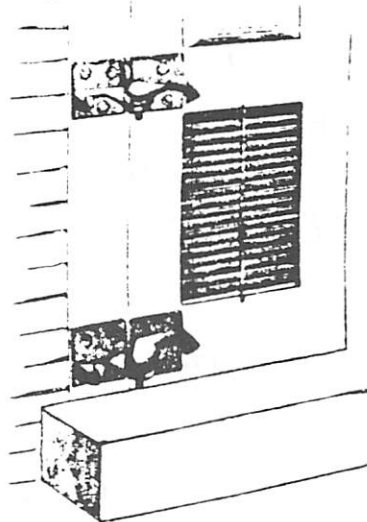
as "blinds" and in some cases as Venetian blinds, to be confused with the more common interior retractable variety also with an early precedent.

Pannelled shutters were met in some early houses and on simpler structures plank shutters with cleats across the back were an alternative. But the more common louvered type, which provided both protection from the sun and at the same time permitted ventilation soon underwent a gradual transformation in the early nineteenth century allowing a greater adjustment and control. In the early 1830s we find the shutters of the Blue-stone House (1834) in Port Hope with the bottom panel having vertical louvres operated by a horizontal rod, the upper panels having fixed horizontal louvres. About 1840 in the Gardner/Dunton House in Britannia School Farm on Hurontario Street (Highway 10), the lower panel of horizontal louvres was movable, operated by a vertical rod, the upper panel louvres fixed. By the mid-nineteenth century, and continued later, both panels of horizontal louvres could be operated to open and close by a vertical rod. When such shutters are in the open position the operating rod shows, when closed only louvres are seen.

The only other details to remember, besides proper jointing, usually involving full mortises, tenons and pins, is that, in the fixed louver type, the louvres are slotted into the stiles or vertical side pieces and secured in place by a small mould, often a small

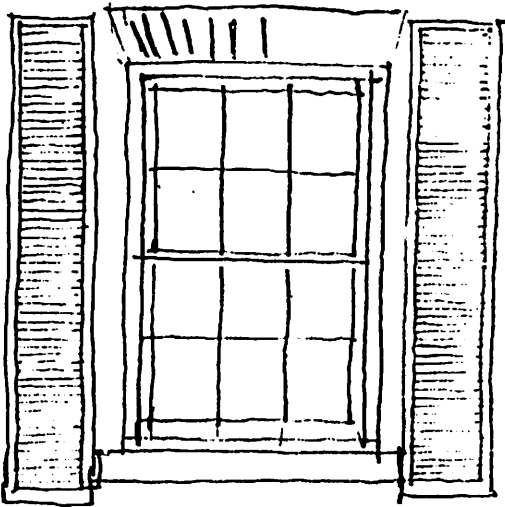
scale astragal, a fillet and bead or fillet/bead/fillet form. The slightly heavier centre rail usually corresponds with the meeting rail of the sash behind or is roughly centred, the lower rail slightly heavier than the stiles and top rail, usually of roughly equal width. The centre meeting rail of the pair usually is a half-lap configuration perhaps 3/8" to 1/2" wide with a bead down the outer edge of the overlapping section.

Shutter hardware may vary from the early wrought strap and pintle variety to plain cast iron butts (on frame buildings where window frames are not deeply recessed in openings) and cast iron parliament types with a narrower shank with hinge knuckle integral and a broader butt fastened to shutter and frame rabbet. These, when open, have an H shape. Such strap, butt and parliament hinges always required a holdback secured to the wall to keep the shutter open and hooks and eyes, or similar devices for fastening the shutters closed at the sill. Holdbacks can be of various designs, the S shape being most common, the lower section always slightly heavier to keep the holdback vertical. A variant is a butterfly shape performing similarly. The Gardner/Dunton house mentioned earlier had a special pattern with a wide flap with a square-holed end which, slid over the rounded end of its shank bent as a right angle to the wall, could be rotated and let down to let the shutter pass over it, then, moved along to the square sec-

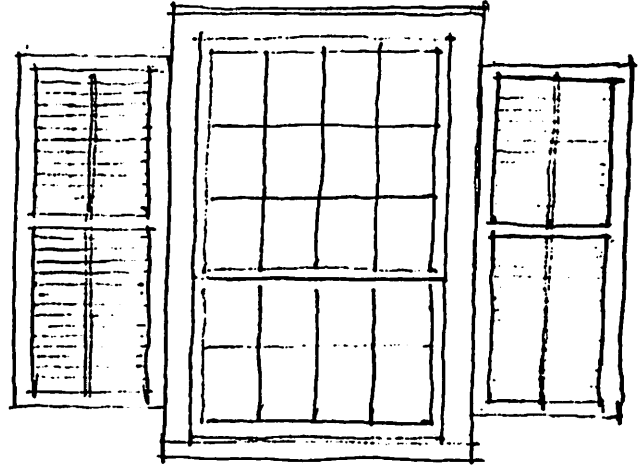


Charles Parker's Patent Blind Hinge and Fastening. From the Illustrated catalogue of American Hardware of the Russell and Erwin Mfg. Co. 1865
Peter John Stokes

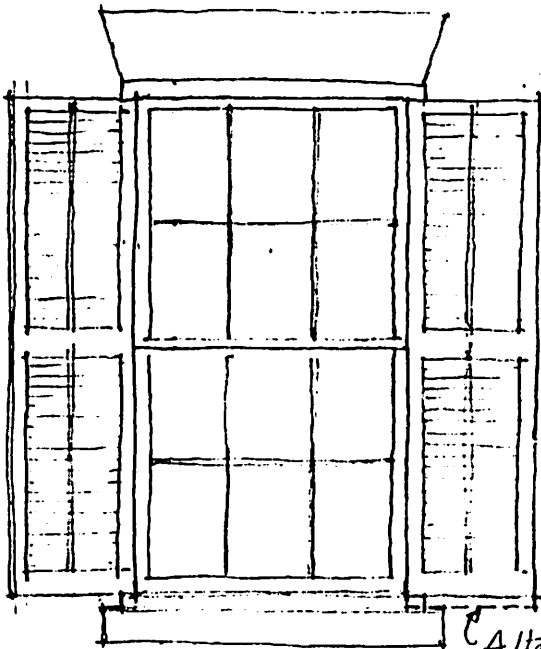
SHUTTERS



Too long & too narrow
& rather obviously
plastic



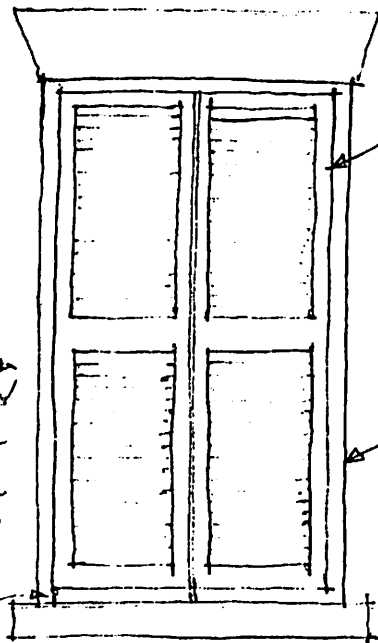
Too short & too wide



Properly
sized &
correctly
hung

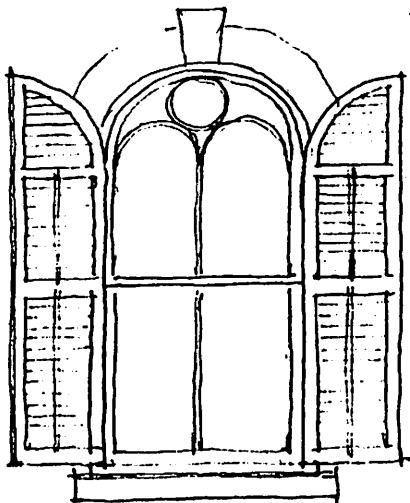
← Open → Closed
When brick
stops flush
with subsill

Alternate when
steps project

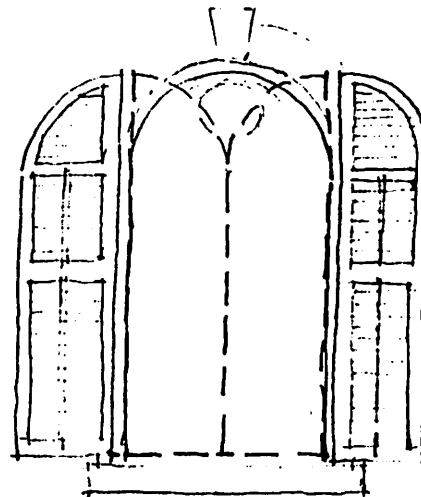


sash
opening or
inside line
of trim in
wood frame
building

Masonry
opening



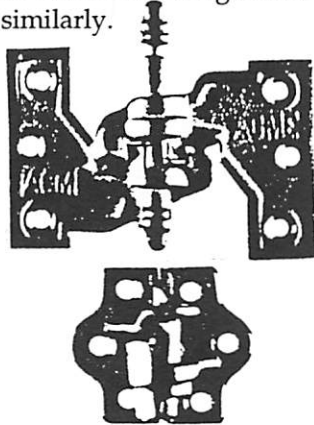
Correctly
hung



Incorrectly
placed:
dotted lines
indicate
problem of
closing

tion of the inner end close to the b end could be turned up and so locked to retain the shutter in place. Replicas, comprising right and left-handed version, were wrought recently by George York of RR4 Sebringville.

Various designs of self-locking hinges were patented over the years, two showing up in the 1865 Russell and Erwin Catalogue as the Parker and Palmer patents. The former was an open knuckled design which could be lifted slightly and swung, then let down, the projecting knuckle fitting into a corresponding hole to hold it in place. The Palmer patent was even more elaborate and comprised no fewer than ten separate cast iron pieces to make a full set of hardware for a pair of shutters. The action relied on a three-piece lower hinge having a cam action activated by a small tapered rotating arm which when turned pushed the shutter up and unlocked it, thus allowing it to be opened and subsequently let down again by turning the arm back. Later more elaborate castings with notched configuration performed similarly.



Cast Iron Shutters hinges, self-holding.
From the 1888 Ball & Ball catalogue.
Peter John Stokes

One last note on shutters concerns colour. The tradition was a very dark green, almost black, usually made from an admixture of chrome green and black, one part green to up to three parts black, as you may deem appropriate. One reason given for the dark colour, and a very sensible one too, is that when closed the opening still looks, with its dark panel, somewhat like a window. Any lighter colour tended to blend with the wall, particularly on a light-painted frame house. It is always disturbing to the purist, like this one, to see white shutters on a brick or stone house especial-

ly, for the shutters look awkward and disturbingly modern as if they were attracting attention to themselves on behalf of the owner able to afford them.

And of course, shutters when operable, are immensely practical, for when closed they serve as natural air-conditioner, the ultimate energy-conserving, keeping the hot sun off the glass and out of the interior while permitting ventilation. Try it some time - you may increase your comfort naturally, and, incidentally, bring your bill for energy down. So restoration can become conservation too.

Oh! if you can no longer hang your "real" shutters properly, or cannot obtain the right hardware then at least make the best stab at fastening them appropriately to resemble the true replacement. In other words the inner line of the shutter should correspond with the inside line of the frame. And if you have shutters that are supposed to fit a curve-topped or pointed opening, when open the higher edge must be on the outside: how often this is forgotten!

Incidentally what prompted this whole discussion, we hope it is not construed as a tirade, was a circulation to our LACAC of the latest (May/June 1992) issue of *Historic Preservation*, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the U.S. The cover picture highlighted an article inside entitled *Their Town*, the new planned communities of Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk seek inspiration from the past, by Anne Elizabeth Powell. The photograph of the pair standing in front of one of their buildings, illustrates just what we have been talking about and emphasizes the comment of a well-known Toronto architect of old, whose firm was noted mainly for neo-Classical designs translated into a more modern idiom, namely, that if you are going to copy you should know what to copy. And, we add, how to copy it. For the traditional design shown on that cover shows shutters which are too large and are incorrectly placed. Just a reminder to our more experienced friends to the south that we may be smaller and more dispersed, but we too are watching.

Peter John Stokes

Around and About

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Rampant change continues in "Niagara-on-the-Take". Despite LACAC's best efforts and a Heritage Conservation District covering the commercial core, entrepreneurs and out-of-town developers never fail to explore all loopholes to their own benefit. Out of date concepts locked in by the usual wretchedly inadequate by-law provisions written for the general case rather than this very specific example allow, almost to conspire, to encourage its erosion by permitting too great coverage and insisting on parking provisions likely to result in the paving over of the green space vital in the interiors of blocks. Similar difficulties leading to overbuilding are allowed in residential areas too.

A new Official Plan awaits final approval. Meanwhile authorities vacillate between new and old, the zoning remaining woefully out of date and hopelessly ill-defined favouring commercialism creeping down side streets into historic residential areas, often jeopardizing older buildings and streetscapes. Merchants pop up signs regardless of the need for prior approval: now a crack-down is anticipated. One establishment recently seeking yet another new sign was confronted with the fact that the building already had no fewer than thirteen signs! Such cases of overkills are too numerous to bear, and too few in the commercial area seem to care.

To cap it all and despite very well expressed protest from merchants, private citizens and LACAC alike, the Town Council decided that it will install parking meters on Queen Street in the Heritage Conservation District. Then trying to set the stage right with its own *coup de theatre* the Lord Mayor and Council have set about a survey of citizens' notions of past performance and future role. There may be some unparliamentary responses on that one.

In spite of all these concerns Niagara-on-the-Lake's Citizens Committee for Ontario's Heritage Years has produced this year some excellent programs, the re-enactment of Lt. Governor John Graves Simcoe's landing in 1792 being one to remember.

The City of Port Colborne recently appeared before the Conservation Review Board to explain its designation of "Roselawn", a fine white brick expression of the late Italianate, Second Empire hybrid, possibly an earlier building originally than its late 1870s design suggests. Its bracketed eaves, bays, mansards and extraordinary tower certainly make it a landmark despite modern additions to favour the Port Colborne Club, no longer in operation, but still objecting, totally. The designation includes not only the older house, significant historically and architecturally, but also its landscaped grounds providing a notable estate setting.

The "jury" is still out on that one. We shall keep you posted, with pictures, next time.

Peter John Stokes

A Tribute to Helen Hutchison

It is with some sadness that we tell you that a great worker towards the conservation of our heritage, Helen Hutchison of Napanee, died last summer leaving her husband Norman Hutchison and sons David and James and their families. What she left behind for so many others to enjoy are the countless memories of her endeavours, her writings and her many friendships, that seemingly indefatigable spirit that carried her and the tasks she undertook through thick and thin. Helen always set an example and never failed to encourage people to follow her sooner or later. Though determined she was patient and never was she easily put off the track once she was on it, and heaven help those who impeded her single-minded purpose.

Trained as a teacher, she married Norman Hutchison who taught for many years at Napanee Collegiate Institute, and brought up her two sons, one David who became a teacher himself, and Jamie who took on the equally onerous vocation of a doctor. She was modest, caring, convivial and energetic counting many successful projects to her and others' credits like the

new Lennox and Addington County Museum in the old Gaol and, of course, the saving and restoration of the Allan Macpherson House in Napanee, now open as an historic display run by the Lennox and Addington Historical Society.

After bringing up her family Helen went back to "school", including a stint at the Royal Ontario Museum in museology, becoming involved with artefact conservation and reading and researching local history. She wrote about the fascinating history of a local struggle for supremacy on the Napanee River in the power play over mill-sites in that watershed in a paper entitled *"From Fifth Lake to the Falls: 100 Years of Waterpower Problems and Perils on the Napanee River"*. Lennox and Addington Historical Society Papers, Vol. 15, 1976. The Hutchisons lived in an attractive small neo-Classical vernacular house of the mid-nineteenth century on West Street in Napanee where the kitchen-study was fitted out from end to end with cupboards and drawers, all filled with neatly filed equipment and papers ready for the day's work: she kept her good ship in trim shape and her sailors always at the ready. It was a happy place, a feeling of fulfilment greeted you at the door.

Helen's roots went back to Huguenot stock, her maiden name was Honey. Helen Hutchison was working on the history of the Macpherson family when she died, a project which is to be completed.

Should you wish to contribute in her memory please send your donation to the Lennox and Addington Historical Society Foundation Fund, which helps endow the maintenance of the Allan Macpherson House in Napanee, c/o Mr. Werk Poole, Treasurer, 202 Bridge Street West, Napanee, Ontario K7R 2E6.

Peter John Stokes

Our Thanks

The council of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario thanks everyone who responded to the appeal for funds to finish the interior of the Skinner/Jackson house in Camden East. When this issue went to press, over \$1,400 had been received. Donors include:

Mr. Alan Beck
Mrs. Julia Beck
Mrs. Netta Brandon
Mr. Ralph Cunningham
Ms. Debra Farrell
Mrs. Walter Gordon
Dr. Murray Hoover
Mrs. Ruby Judge
London Region Branch
North Waterloo Region Branch
Mr. John Therriault
Mr. Roy Turner

Donations are still being received.

The financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications, the Honourable Karen Haslam, Minister, is gratefully acknowledged.

Printed on Recycled Paper
by Woolner Press,
Kitchener, Ontario



Early Architecture of the Town and Township of Niagara

Those of you who missed our Limited Edition (500 Copies) 1967
Early Architecture of the Town and Township of Niagara -
now a collector's item, may care to look at the new "Student Edition".

This is a definitive volume on the Georgian, Greek Revival, or Neo-Classical
architecture of buildings in the town and township of Niagara. This
comprehensive survey of early buildings was undertaken by
Peter Stokes, Restoration Architect,
in conjunction with the National Inventory of Buildings.

The Price Per Copy is:

\$50.00 each plus **\$6.50** postage

Specify:

STUDENT EDITION

"Early Architecture of the Town and Township of Niagara"

Send your name and address, with a cheque
payable to the Niagara Foundation
to:

The Niagara Foundation
Box 790
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada

If not Delivered Please Return
to:
The Architectural
Conservancy of Ontario
10 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, Ontario
M5C 1J3

